

Quiescent Development Of Lithographic Plates

Abstract of the Disclosure

5 The invention is directed to the development of lithographic printing
plates and comprises the application of a thin, quiescent film of developer
solution to each plate in a controlled manner using, for example, a wire-
wound coating device or an ink-jet type head. A feature of this quiescence
is that the developer fluid is applied uniformly with self-leveling over the
10 plate at the required thickness. In the preferred embodiment the fluid is
gently fed onto the wire-wound device by simple volumetric displacement
and overflow from the inside of a hollow tube onto the wire, and the flow is
controlled by sensing the beginning and end of each plate. The developer
dwells on the plate as it is conveyed across a stable horizontal support
15 structure for a sufficient time to allow for undisturbed vertical percolation into
and/or dissolution of the soluble regions of the coating, without being
subjected to lateral forces that would promote seepage of developer into the
base of adjacent areas where dissolution is not desired.

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